

serious attacks are made almost casually, without any claim or relevance to any public purpose.

In fact, even a preliminary investigation would have revealed that the so-called "reliable source," Richard Lucas, never met with Mr. Palladino or discussed with him any of the facts or issues concerning this matter. Further, an investigation would also have shown that I had no personal involvement with the activity criticized in the report.

2. The report repeatedly relies on a witness who lacks credibility. Many assertions in the report—including many of the most misleading, erroneous or otherwise objectionable assertions—are cited only to Mr. Lucas. E.g., notes 799, 806, 814, 822-24. Mr. Lucas is not a credible witness for several reasons: much of his story to the Committee is contradicted by his own sworn affidavit; he is apparently engaged in a legal dispute with one of the Committee's other witnesses and thus has an incentive to blame that witness for his own conduct; and he committed a conscious and intentional breach of his contractual and ethical obligations to the Steel Hector & Davis law firm. After having been retained by the law firm, he entered into a relationship with individuals hostile to the firm and the interests of its clients, and repeatedly breached his ethical and contractual obligations by secretly and systematically providing the opposing side in a litigation matter confidential information about the law firm's and client's activities.

A further sign that Mr. Lucas is simply not reliable is that he authored several memoranda under a pseudonym, "Michael Wilson." The report never discloses that fact. The report also frequently relies on these memoranda, without any other corroborating evidence. E.g., notes 831, 832, 837. That Mr. Lucas felt compelled to write memoranda under a pseudonym, in a complete departure from ordinary business practice, seriously undermines his credibility and shows that Mr. Lucas understood there was something about his conduct that needed to be hidden. Moreover, the memoranda themselves demonstrate that Mr. Lucas was violating his contractual and ethical duties to the Steel Hector & Davis law firm, and thus are independently not worthy of belief.

Significantly, the report itself accuses Mr. Lucas of criminal misconduct. E.g., p. 168.

3. The report contains sensational charges that it fails to support. The report's headings repeatedly charge individuals or organizations with illegal acts. E.g., p. 162 ("Soka Gakkai Illegally Obtains Information on Nobuo Abe Through Jack Palladino"); p. 163 ("Poston Requests Her Private Investigators To Break The Law"). Those inflammatory headings are not supported by the text. For example, the passage about Mr. Palladino is modified by the word "apparently," and it is sourced only to Mr. Lucas, the tainted witness; as the report concedes in the very next footnote, it did not even bother to discuss this allegation with Mr. Palladino. Mr. Palladino has publicly stated that he had nothing to do with illegally obtaining any information about Nobuo Abe and had no involvement with obtaining information from any federal source whatsoever. Similarly, Ms. Poston testified that she at no time asked her investigators to break the law.

4. The report lends unmerited credibility to mere speculation. The report seeks to suggest that an employee of the Bureau of Prisons "planted" a fabricated record in the NCIC involving an arrest in Seattle in 1963. The report recognizes this as "speculation," and attributes it to some unnamed "individ-

uals involved in the case," p. 162. There is no evidence to support this speculative theory, and again the staff failed to perform any of the investigative work—such as interviewing knowledgeable law enforcement officials from the Seattle area—that would have helped clarify these facts. The report's careless presentation of the speculation may be injurious to the parties to the lawsuit in Japan—a lawsuit that, once again, the report specifically acknowledges, p. 161.

I ask that the report be corrected in light of this information, or, at a minimum, that this letter be made part of any final report issued by the Committee.

Yours very truly,

BARRY B. LANGBERG.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN JOHN HICKS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a remarkable constituent who has dedicated his life to serving others.

John S. Hicks, an attorney in my Congressional District whose offices are located in Chester, New York, has been Chairman of the Republican County Committee of Orange County, NY, since 1995. In that capacity, he has diligently worked to build a strong two party system in our country. John never lost sight of the fact that his only motivation for politics is good government.

John encouraged delivering the Republican message by providing a full time Republican Party Headquarters, and by publishing a supplement to our local daily newspaper which he entitled "The Eagle" and which has been an effective vehicle to publicize the principles of our party and the activities of our candidates.

John Hicks, who is a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, has been a resident of Warwick, NY since he was five years old. A product of the public school system of Warwick, and a graduate of Colgate University and Albany Law School, he has been engaged in the practice of law since 1977.

In 1964, John registered to vote as a Republican at the age of 21, and maintained his dedication to Republican policies during and after his three year stint in the Army during the Vietnam era.

John is a Member of the American, New York and Orange County Bar Associations. He is active with the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the U.S. and the Orange County Chambers of Commerce. He is also active in Warwick's Rotary, the Warwick Community Bandwagon, and the Orange County Citizens Foundation. John also serves on the Board of Directors of the Orange County United Way and the Arden Hill Hospital, and is a life member of the American Legion.

John and his lovely wife, Judy, are the proud parents of Michael (a West Point graduate), Deanna, Stephanie, Mark, Lisa and Jeffrey.

On Feb. 2, 2001, the Town of Newburgh Republican Committee at their annual Lincoln Day Dinner will honor John as their designee as the "Republican of the Year". Their rec-

ognition is long overdue, for John Hicks has long personified the ideal of political work as a public trust.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in congratulating John S. Hicks, Esq., for this honor and for a job well done.

GEORGIA REGULATOR TO LEAD INVESTIGATION INTO INSURER'S RATES FOR BLACK CUSTOMERS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to commend John W. Oxendine, Georgia Insurance Commissioner who will pursue to multistate investigation of Life Insurance Co. of Georgia, which if proven true, represents a very serious matter, and subsequently needs to be dealt with. African-Americans make up a large percentage of the company's policyholders. Evidence gathered by state examiners showed the Atlanta company, a unit of Dutch INC Group NV, continued at least until recently, to charge African-Americans higher rates than whites on identical policies sold as late as the 1980's. Historically, records have shown that through the first half of the century, U.S. life insurers typically either didn't market to African-Americans or charged them higher rates based on mortality tables that showed a shorter life expectancy for African-Americans. The discriminatory treatment however, was through to have been scrapped in the early 1960's, because of U.S. Supreme Court rulings and the impact of the civil rights movement.

I submit the following article from the Wall Street Journal.

[From the Wall Street Journal Dec. 15, 2000]
GEORGIA REGULATORY TO LEAD INVESTIGATION INTO INSURER'S RATES FOR BLACK CUSTOMERS
(By Scot J. Paltrow)

Georgia's insurance department said it will lead a multistate investigation of Life Insurance Co. of Georgia, after initial inquiries showed the company systematically had charged higher, race-based premiums to African-American customers.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine said [evidence gathered by state examiners showed the Atlanta company, a unit of Dutch ING Group NV, continued at least until recently to charge blacks higher rates than whites on identical policies sold as late as the 1980s.]

Life of Georgia was one of the companies cited in a Wall Street Journal page-one story in April, which reported that some life insurers had continued to charge higher premiums to African-Americans on small policies formally known as "industrial insurance." A former Life of Georgia actuary was quoted as saying discrimination premiums continued to be charged by the company well after most other insurers had halted the practice in the 1960s. Florida regulators earlier this year initiated the inquiry into Life of Georgia as well as more than 25 other companies. A lawsuit on behalf of black policyholders is pending against Life of Georgia in federal court in Florida.

Life of Georgia has strongly denied the allegations. Officials at Life of Georgia, at

ING's North American headquarters in Atlanta and at the parent company's headquarters in Amsterdam, didn't respond to telephone calls. In an interview in April, Life of Georgia Chief Counsel Jeffrey B. McClellan said, "our position is that no discriminatory rates were ever employed" by the company.

Historical records show that through the first half of the 20th century, U.S. life insurers typically either didn't market to African-Americans or charged them higher rates based on mortality tables that showed a shorter life expectancy for blacks. The discriminatory treatment, however, was thought to have been scrapped in the early 1960's, because of U.S. Supreme Court rulings and the impact of the civil-rights movement.

In June, Houston's American General Corp. agreed to pay more than \$215 million to settle investigations by Florida and other states and a civil lawsuit which alleged the company had continued until this year to charge higher race-based premiums on about 1.2 million policies held by blacks.

Mr. Oxendine said that based on examiners' initial findings, the Life of Georgia investigation will include all types of insurance sold by Life of Georgia. He said it was too early to estimate the number of policies or amount of money involved. [But he said African-Americans make up a large percentage of the company's policyholders.]

The investigation is being conducted on behalf of all 50 states. The company's business is licensed to sell in 30 states and has policyholders in all states, the Georgia department said.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF OCTAVIA LUCINDA OLIVER ROSS AS DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AND A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Octavia Lucinda Oliver Ross, who was a distinguished educator, devoted mother and community activist in my St. Croix district of the Territory of the Virgin Islands.

Octavia Ross was born into and became a part of an outstanding family educational legacy in the Virgin Islands. Her late father, Emanuel Benjamin Oliver was also a teacher, and a school on the island of St. Thomas bears his name. After teaching at the Federal Nursery School, Octavia Ross began her career as an instructor in public school system. She served as a teacher at almost all grade levels, elementary as well as secondary and worked at the junior high and intermediate grade levels. Most of her teaching career was spent as a first grade teacher at the Frederiksted Public Grammar School and the Claude O. Markoe School. Mrs. Ross enrolled in various training sessions with the Polytechnic Institute of St. Croix and pursued additional training at Inter American University in Puerto Rico.

On January 25, 1964, Octavia Ross obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree from Hampton University, followed by a period in which she did post graduate work in Supervision and Administration. Upon returning to

St. Croix she was instrumental in initiating and directing the Bilingual/Bicultural and the Academically-talented Programs. Mrs. Ross became an assistant principal at the Charles H. Emanuel and the Alexander Henderson Schools. She became the first principal of the Evelyn Williams Elementary School, remaining there until her retirement at the completion of forth two years of meritorious service in the field of education. Octavia Ross, having been a star athlete in her youth, also instructed handicraft and athletics. There are many who strongly feel the sentiment that she devoted her life to the children of St. Croix as a teacher, assistant principal and principal.

Octavia Ross also made varied and vast contributions to the social well being of the Virgin Islands' community. Athletic activities during her youth caused her to participate in numerous inter-island meets, which may have been the beginning of her activity in the community. She has been credited with carrying the banner in the Business and Professional Women's Club, serving as both the local and state president. She was a delegate at the International Business and Professional Women's convention in Houston, Texas. In 1974, she received the Woman of the Year Award. Octavia Ross was also the recipient of the Frederiksted Business and Professional Women's Achievement Award. In 1978 she was named the Mother of the Year Award by the Frederiksted Club and later received their Woman of Achievement Award. Octavia Ross was listed in the 1977 International "Who's Who in the West Indies, Bahamas and Bermuda," V. I. Section—Personalities of the Caribbean and was also listed in the 1979 edition of World "Who's Who Dictionary of International Biographies" and received the Paul Harris Fellow from the Rotary Club of St. Croix West.

The Governor of the Virgin Islands described her as having a graceful demeanor, a professional integrity and ladylike deportment that made her an exemplary and model teacher. Further, he stated that not only has Mrs. Ross made a significant contribution to the Virgin Islands as an educator in her own right, but also in the contributions of her offspring in the administrative, legislative, educational, legal, financial, civic, military and industrial areas of the community. Not surprisingly, Octavia Ross was a dedicated member of her church, the Saint Paul's Anglican Church, in addition to being a member of Episcopal Church Women's Organization and Member of the Vestry.

Octavia Ross was appreciated by the many whose lives she touched. Besides her husband Rupert W. Ross, Sr., she leaves to mourn her seven children: Rupert, Edgar, Raymond, James, Edward, Janice and Jewel; two step children, Randolph and Judy-Ann; fourteen grand children, fourteen great grand children; and a community recovering from her sudden passing. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I salute Octavia Lucinda Oliver Ross for her dedicated service to her profession and the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I thank her husband Rupert, her seven children, two step children, fourteen grand children, fourteen great grand children and a grateful community for sharing her with us.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER HILARY CONTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person from my district, Father Hilary Conti of Clifton, New Jersey, who celebrated on Saturday, October 28, 2000 fifty years of service and leadership in Clifton and round the country. It is only fitting that he be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Father Hilary Conti was recognized for his many years of leadership in Clifton, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is appropriate that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Paul Karieakatt chronicled the history of Father Conti's service. As he noted, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Father Hilary Conti's priestly ordination. For fifty years he has engaged himself in the vineyard of the Lord, as a monk and as a priest. This is a truly special achievement.

Father Hilary was born in Fabriano, Italy on May 12, 1925 to Natale and Carmela Conti as their sixth child. Although it was filled with hard work, Father Conti enjoyed a beautiful childhood. On one occasion during WWII, all he had to eat was a discarded carrot. He worked as farmer, and fondly recalls those early days. In his own words he said, "My father went to look not for the lost sheep, but for the lost shepherd. It did not take him too long to find me."

Father Conti joined the monastery as an aspirant on September 29, 1938, made his novitiate in 1943 and his simple profession on October 1, 1944. On October 28, 1950, he was ordained a priest at St. Scholastica in Detroit, Michigan. As a student he helped to found *Inter Fratres* magazine.

Father Hilary taught for a short time at Mercy High School in Detroit. He has always been an active and involved leader. The time spent working in Michigan instilled in Father Conti the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

Later he took upon an even greater challenge and pioneered the establishment of a small monastery in Clifton. It is known as the Holy Face Monastery. It nourishes spiritual needs of the soul, gladdens the heart and inspires all those who visit. Of the works of art at the Holy Face Monastery the Shrine of Our Lady of Tears is Father Hilary's favorite. His late close friend, Mr. Canepa, created this masterpiece.

To describe in his own words his accomplished life, Father Conti wrote, "I planted many oak trees and saw them growing big and tall; now I am 70 years old, so I am pre-occupied about the future of the monastery." This shows his enduring love and relentless commitment. Many people come to the monastery to search for the meaning of life, healing, peace and consolation.